

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /040 W  
----- 032261 /12

R 161818Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8852  
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 20375

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PINS, IN  
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION MOVEMENT IN INDIA

REFERENCE: NEW DELHI 18006

1. ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT RECEIVE STATE 302523, WE  
THOUGHT NEW DELHI'S REPLY IN REFTEL WORTH MENTIONING TO  
THE FCO AND INFORMED O'NEILL, HEAD OF THE FCO SOUTH ASIA  
DEPARTMENT, IN GENERAL TERMS OF THE ASSESSMENT IN THE  
ECONOMIST ARTICLE. O'NEILL READILY AGREED WITH EMBASSY  
NEW DELHI' PARTICULARLY WITH THE SUSPICION THAT THE  
ARTICLE SMACKED OF TYPICAL EMIGRE REPORTING. HE THOUGHT  
THAT THE ECONOMIST'S REPORTING ON SOUTH ASIA HAD DE-  
CLINED IN ACCURACY IN RECENT YEARS. HE SAID THE INDIAN  
HIGH COMMISSION HAS NOT YET MENTIONED THE ARTICLE TO HIM,  
BUT IF IT DID HE WOULD BE INCLINED TO REPLY, "HOW CAN YOU  
EXPECT JOURNALISTS TO REPORT ACCURATELY ON THE SITUATION  
IN INDIA IF YOU WON'T LET THEM IN."

2. EMBASSY LONDON COMMENT: WE HAVE RECENTLY REPORTED  
THE DECLINE IN LOCAL PRESTIGE OF THE ECONOMIST'S RE-  
PORTING ON THE MIDDLE EAST, AND O'NEILL'S STATEMENT  
SUGGESTS THAT THIS EXTENDS TO SOUTH ASIA AS WELL. IN  
PARTICULAR, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE ECONOMIST'S SOMETIMES  
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GLIB PRONOUNCEMENTS IN SUCH AREAS DO NOT REFLECT BRITISH  
GOVERNMENT THINKING.

SPIERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL STABILITY, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, OPPOSITION PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LONDON20375  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Executive Order:** X1  
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**Film Number:** D760464-0108  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761237/aaaabfzr.tel  
**Line Count:** 59  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 NEW DELHI 18006  
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